



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
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Virginia Grape Production Increases in 2006

Virginia's grape producers harvested 6,200 tons of commercial grapes in 2006, up 11% from the 5,600 tons produced in 2005. Production of the Vinifera varieties accounted for the majority of the overall production. Producers harvested a crop valued at \$8.6 million, receiving an average price of \$1,440 per ton.

Virginia ranked 8th nationally in commercial grape production and 9th for bearing acreage.

Virginia bearing acreage has increased from 2,000 acres in 2005 to 2,100 acres in 2006, a 5% increase over that time span.

Production and Price by Variety, 2006

Variety 1/	Tons Produced 4/	Utilized Tons 3/	Avg. Price Per Ton
Chardonnay	1,089	1,012	\$1,478.00
Cabernet Franc	795	657	\$1,552.00
Cabernet Sauvignon	478	358	\$1,924.00
Chambourcin	214	193	\$910.00
Merlot	682	584	\$1,744.00
Seyval	128	119	\$1,052.00
Vidal Blanc	467	464	\$963.00
Viognier	370	353	\$1,873.00
Virginia 2/	6,200	6,000	\$1,440.00

1/ All other grape varieties were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

2/ State price and production based on all reported varieties. Price based on all reported sales.

3/ In 2006 an average of 3% of production was unutilized above the normal 2%.

4/ Revised

*The information reported was obtained from growers who responded to the 2006 *Virginia Commercial Grape Survey*. The final publication will be released in the upcoming months.